



CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS DEPARTMENT OF

PUBLIC SAFETY

N E W S L E T T E R

VOLUME 2
#4
APR 2014

In this issue: [Re-Entry's First-Day-In Video](#) | [Success for IMPD NW Unit](#) | [Big Honor for IEMS Staffer](#)
[Strengthening Families Graduates 1st '14 Class](#) | [Amazing IFD Fire Response Video](#)



On March 20th, Mayor Ballard and the Department of Public Safety hosted the first Community Conversation to have an open discussion regarding violence in our city. The event was well attended, and in addition to the Mayor, the panel included IMPD Chief Rick Hite, City-County Council President Maggie Lewis, Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry, Indy Public Safety Foundation Chairperson Melissa Proffitt Reese and CICC President and CEO Brian Payne.

Chief Hite did a good job of explaining how the department had driven property and violent crime down. To many in the audience, it was a surprise to learn that shootings were actually down by 5 percent last year, even though homicides were up. He continued by giving an update on the IMPD violent crime plan that originated in February of 2013.

The panel had a frank discussion regarding crime and the importance of our city never being complacent about crime, quality of life and education. All were in agreement that to deal with some of the social issues we are currently facing -- including losing 110 citizens to heroin and another 168 to suicide in 2013 -- it will take the community working together.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mayor Ballard and I asked for the citizens of Indianapolis to do what they have done for years -- to give generously and volunteer time to those organizations that are working with the Mayor's Office and IMPD to deal with issues ranging from truancy to re-entry. A request was made for civic organizations, houses of faith, and others to host their own Community Conversations.

President Lewis hosted the next Community Conversation on Tuesday (April 8) at Light of the World Christian Church and 500 interested citizens participated. Her commitment to step forward spurred others. IMPD Southeast District Commander John Conley has scheduled a conversation for April 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Garfield Park Arts Center (2432 Conservatory Drive). IMPD Downtown District Commander Karen Arnett will be hosting a conversation May 13 at 5 p.m.

Several other conversations are in the process of being planned with dates and times to be announced. Please visit the home page of the Department of Public Safety website to keep up with schedule updates.

This newsletter is now read by thousands of our employees and residents. If you are interested in learning more about how to help or are interested in hosting your own Community Conversation, please feel free to contact my office at DPS@indy.gov.

The task before us is great: to reduce crime and the fear of crime, and to enhance the quality of life of all our citizens. I truly believe when the community and their public safety officials work together, our goal will be achieved.

God Bless and stay safe // Troy

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Have a question, suggestion or comment to share with Director Riggs or the Department? Please e-mail it to us at:

dps@indy.gov



IEMS Staff Member Receives National Award for Advocacy

Indianapolis EMS' Lt. Jason Scheiderer was recently honored with the EMS Field Bill Advocate of the Year Award from the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT).

Lt. Scheiderer was one of three awardees from across the nation to be recognized for their volunteer work in support of this legislation. He received his award at NAEMT's EMS on the Hill Day in Washington, D.C., in March.

H.R. 809, the Field EMS Quality, Innovation and Cost-Effectiveness Improvement Act (a.k.a. the Field EMS Bill), would provide federal support for EMS practitioners, similar to federal support offered to fire and police, as well as make improvements to the EMS industry and practices.

As an advocate for the Field EMS Bill, Lt. Scheiderer secured sponsors for the bill, Indiana Reps. Larry Bucshon and Andre Carson, and gained support from the Indiana EMS Association and the Putnam County Operation Life Agency.

Lt. Scheiderer is an educator in the Indianapolis EMS Education Division and has been in EMS for 12 years.



IEMS Lt. Jason Scheiderer (right) with Don Lundy, president of NAEMT

Stop The Violence Honors Graduates of First Strengthening Families Class of 2014

On March 4, Stop The Violence Indianapolis, Inc., honored the graduates of its first Strengthening Families Class of 2014 — a class made possible by an Indy Public Safety Foundation Mini-Grant.

The Strengthening Families Program consists of seven highly-interactive, video-based sessions conducted over seven-consecutive weeks.

During the first half of each session, parents and youth meet separately but work on similar skills. During the second hour, the youth and parents participate together as families to practice skills, play games and do family projects.

The program focuses on setting appropriate limits, using consequences, protecting against substance abuse, handling peer pressure, reaching out for help, understanding family values and building family communication.

The youth sessions also include topics such as identifying positive goals for the future, appreciating parents, managing stress, follow rules, and resisting peer pressure.



Stop The Violence Indianapolis, Inc., graduated its first Strengthening Families class of 2014 early last month. Those graduated included (adults pictured above from left to right) Omar-Zureil McMiller, Yvonne Brewex, Daylon McMiller and Esoterica Brown. The children pictured above (from left to right) are Jeremiah Lewis and William Brewer.

First-day-in video delivers positive message

The "first-day-in" video produced by the Mayor's Office of Re-Entry is delivering a positive message to future re-entrants the day they arrive in prison.

The video, now being utilized by the Indiana Department of Corrections (DOC), is intended to immediately connect with those who enter the DOC or the Reception Diagnostic Center and provide them with Marion County re-entry information.

"Reaching future re-entrants well in advance of their arrival into our community is an important step," said Dr. Willie Jenkins, the Administrator of the Mayor's Office of Re-Entry. "This video shares a positive message and helps an inmate understand that a second chance will be available to them when they re-enter and we will be here to assist them."

The mission of the Mayor's Office of Re-entry is to develop collaborative partnerships among government, businesses, faith-based organizations and community members to leverage resources and ensure sustainability for ex-offenders and the community.

The Mayor's Office of Re-Entry is one of the eight divisions that comprise the Department of Public Safety.

"More than 5,000 individuals re-enter our community after being released from jail each and every year," said Director of Public Safety Troy Riggs. "This first-day-in initiative, which is the brainchild of Mayor Ballard, is helping those entering prison to begin to focus immediately on the steps they need to take to re-enter society successfully, and ultimately become good citizens."



FIRST-DAY IN

"Reaching future re-entrants well in advance of their arrival into our community is an important step."

~ Dr. Willie Jenkins,
Mayor's Office
of Re-Entry



Dr. Willie Jenkins, Administrator
Mayor's Office of Offender Re-Entry

The implementation of the first-day-in video is part of a broader strategy to assist re-entrants. It was announced last month that a pilot program providing services to re-entrants will expand to all Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) district offices during 2014. Called Parole Initiative, the program is a collaborative effort between IMPD, the Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD) and DOC that connects parolees with links to housing, employment and other services during their transition back to the community.

The first-day-in video can be viewed or downloaded by clicking [here](#).

2014 DPS

"Recognition of Excellence" Awards

<http://bit.ly/dps-awards>

It's time to nominate one of the unsung heroes who work alongside you every day for a 2014 DPS "Recognition of Excellence" Award.

The awards will be presented in December to those employees of DPS who have gone above and beyond their normal duties while exemplifying the recognizable good qualities and high standards of DPS.

Nominate someone today!

Update on DPS Employee Alcohol Policy



On January 15, 2011, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) issued a directive formally establishing an Alcohol Policy for all DPS employees.

The policy was developed by a committee that included labor and management representatives from all divisions of DPS. One intention of the policy was to ensure that DPS were covered by a clearly-defined policy that would be uniformly enforced for all members.

As a result of receiving several questions in regard to the policy and its application throughout DPS, Director Riggs has taken several steps to ensure that all members are aware of the policy and understand it. The directive establishing the policy has been reviewed along with the supportive General Order and policy manuals for the DPS divisions. The policy has been reviewed by the DPS Executive Staff and will be presented as a formal topic as part of the upcoming first-line supervisor training.

The policy will also be reinforced internally by each division to ensure all DPS employees have a good understanding of it.

Director Riggs and the Department of Public Safety are committed to protecting the safety, health and well-being of all employees and the public we serve. Alcohol abuse poses a significant threat to those goals. The DPS Alcohol Policy was designed to balance our respect for the individual employee with the need to maintain an alcohol-free environment and to maintain the confidence of the community.

Reminder about parking improperly in official vehicles

We received a complaint about public safety employees who are sometimes parking illegally (including blocking crosswalks and fire hydrants) when they go to the bank. Please remember that law and policy prohibits us from parking in unauthorized areas. Complaints are forward to the appropriate leadership for handling. Thank you.

IMPD Northwest District's Suspect Tracking Unit continues to make our Northwest neighborhoods safer

- by Christian White, IMPD

In May 2011, IMPD's Northwest District formed the Suspect Tracking Unit. This unit consists of officers Bob Wendling, Jason Zotz and James Briggs. Their mission is to locate suspects for detectives and bring them in for questioning.

With great initiative, they have developed several techniques that emphasize both finesse and skill to locate people who don't want to be found.

These officers are able to bring in suspects for detectives so that they may be questioned about their crimes, which usually results in a stronger case to be prosecuted in court. These officers operate quickly and efficiently with little or no fanfare and are directly responsible for making Indianapolis safer and for reducing social harm.

The box to the right offers a statistical look at what the Suspect Tracking Unit has accomplished since its inception.

- 1,058 total apprehensions
 - ⇒ 481 burglary suspects
 - ⇒ 256 theft suspects
 - ⇒ 36 armed robbery suspects
 - ⇒ 32 rape/child molest suspects
 - ⇒ 24 shooting /stabbing suspects
 - ⇒ 10 murder suspects
 - ⇒ 219 miscellaneous suspects (battery, stalking, kidnapping, etc.)

To and From: DPS@indy.gov

To: DPS
Subject: Indy Shield CrossFit



I am writing this e-mail to ask Director Riggs for continued support of the Indy Shield CrossFit gym. This is an outstanding program that very few other cities, if any, offer to their public safety employees. CrossFit has completely changed everything I thought I knew about fitness and nutrition, and I know I serve the City of Indianapolis better because of this. The functional movements can be transferred to the street and used while performing emergency service. CrossFit truly trains public safety professionals for the unknown and the unknowable.

The number of trainers available to train other employees in the Indy Shield CrossFit gym has seen a drop in number in recent months. This has even left the gym closed at times it normally would have been open. I hope I am not out of line in offering my own solution to this dilemma.

I believe it would be a wise use of public safety resources to hire a civilian employee to manage the Indy Shield CrossFit gym, supplemented by the current staff of firefighters, police officers, and sheriff's deputies who hold a CrossFit Trainer certification.

Respectfully Submitted.

From: DPS
Subject: Indy Shield CrossFit

Thank you for your email. We are still sharing the CrossFit issues with the Chiefs (anonymously as promised) to gather their feedback and planning.

Here is Chief Sanford's response:

"I enjoy hearing continued positive comments in regard to the CrossFit program. I have been through the

program and agree that it is well suited for firefighters and the demanding physical aspects of the job. Realizing the benefits of the program, we encourage participation by our members. We recently reviewed participation levels of our members and as a result have transitioned our current detailed instructor to a dedicated position on staff.

The idea of providing additional civilian instructors or converting some of the current sworn instructors to civilian positions is also worth investigating. This could be a more cost-effective approach to maintaining the program in the long term.

Chief Hite responded to the issue at staff meeting with firm support of Indy CrossFit because it has become a national model and has been proven to reduce on the job injuries and provide a healthier public safety staff.

Keep the conversation going!

Troy

To: DPS
Subject: Locked DPS office door



Would you consider unlocking the door to DPS?

From: DPS
Subject: Locked DPS office door

When I arrived in Indianapolis, some expressed how frustrated they were that the executive offices of DPS were locked at all times. I immediately had one of our doors remain open so individuals could come and go freely when they needed to enter our offices.

Recently, some individuals not familiar with the open way into our office mentioned the possibility of unlocking the second entrance to our office. First, we probably should have done this a long time ago, but both entrances are open to our office at this time.

Feel free to utilize either entrance if you need to do business or just want to drop by to say hello or share an idea.

Have a question, suggestion or comment to share with Director Riggs or the Department? Please e-mail it to us at:

dps@indy.gov



To and From: DPS@indy.gov

To: DPS

Subject: Civilian Parking Lot

I would like to know what's going on with the parking lot by the jail please? The one at Delaware and Washington street. Mostly civilians and officers park over there. There are rumors going around that it was sold. My first question is if it's been sold are we still going to be allowed to park there? Is it going to cost us? At this time we don't have to pay anything for parking, and considering what some of our salaries are I don't think most people could afford to park there if they had to pay?

All I'm asking is we need to be a little prepared if something is going on where we are going to have to move from that parking lot, or pay. I hope someone can be held accountable for all of the rest of my questions. It's really frustrating and may sound minor to whoever answers this email, but I tell you I'm speaking for a lot of people who I've heard with my own ears complain.



I would appreciate any response you could give me, and I appreciate the open forum we have and being able to write this email. I just truly hope someone on the other end is listening and values my concerns.

Thank you.

From: DPS

Subject: Civilian Parking Lot

Thank you for bringing this issue to our attention.

The Mayor is excited about the future development of that parking lot and bringing a beautiful building downtown to enhance our transit options in Indy. The Mayor and his staff will make sure that we can accommodate all current parkers in the future at no cost to them.

Please click [here](#) if you'd like to see more about the new Transit Center.

Sincerely,

Troy

IMPD Line of Duty Death Travel Plaque Presented to Chief Hite



On March 18th, a new IMPD Line of Duty Death Travel Plaque was presented to Chief Rick Hite and his staff during a ceremony in the Chief's Conference Room.

The Chaplain's Office project was anchored by a committee (pictured at left) that included Chaplain Philip Bacon, Detective Lisa Stevens, civilian Laverne Sanborn, Sergeant Jo Moore, Officer Rob Turner and civilian Julie Black. Officer Rod Bradway's widow, Jamie Bradway (pictured third from the right), joined the committee for the presentation.

Production of the plaque, which is on display at the Training Academy, was funded by the David S. Moore Foundation.

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dps@indy.gov



DPS: In, Out and About

IFD Adds to Pageantry of 2014 St. Patrick's Day Parade

The 34th Indianapolis St. Patrick's Day Parade was held March 17.

Although parade-goers were greeted by cold temperatures, they were also treated to many popular parade traditions including a strong showing by the Indianapolis Fire Department.

Director Riggs and IMPD Assistant Chief Ron Hicks joined Chief Sanford on Ladder 43 during the festivities.



Click [HERE](#) to see an amazing view of a fire response through the eyes of an IFD Firefighter



A Couple More Questions That Have Come to the Director

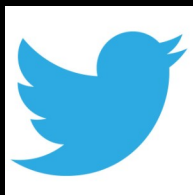
Q: Will officers be civilly protected when administering Narcan?

A: IMPD is working on policy and procedures, and training. The protection of those working for the city in the performance of their official duties will be handled in the same way Tasers, various weapon use, etc. have been handled in the past.

Q: What is being done about wagons that are not fully staffed to transport prisoners?

A: Sheriff Layton was advised of issues with wagon availability to transport prisoners. He immediately called a staff meeting and implemented changes that have dramatically increased the wagon availability.

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"Indianapolis Department of Public
Safety"



Director for a Day - CICF Staff

The Department of Public Safety continued its "Director for a Day" program in March, this time inviting staff members from the Central Indiana Community Foundation to participate. The group consisted of Alicia Barnett (Community Collaborations Manager), Roderick Wheeler (Community Impact Director), Kelli Baumgarn (Philanthropic Services Advisor) and Julie Scharlau (Development Associate). They spent the day with the Department of Public Safety team at the IMPD Training Academy to gain a better grasp of the complex work done by the department at all levels.



Want to suggest a good Director for a Day?
Please e-mail us at: dps@indy.gov

Excellence in Government Award Winners

Five deserving DPS employees were recognized for their hard work during the March "Excellence in Government" luncheon. They, and their guests, were treated to lunch, hosted by and sponsored by California Pizza Kitchen.



Nominate Continuous Excellence Today

<http://bit.ly/excellence-in-gov>